



**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
AUDIT EXAMINATION OF THE
FORMER ALLEN COUNTY CLERK**

Calendar Year 1998

**EDWARD B. HATCHETT, JR.
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
WWW.STATE.KY.US/AGENCIES/APA**

**144 CAPITOL ANNEX
FRANKFORT, KY 40601
TELE. (502) 564-5841
FAX (502) 564-2912**

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Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Paul E. Patton, Governor
John P. McCarty, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
Sarah Jane Schaaf, Secretary, Revenue Cabinet
Honorable Johnny Hobdy, County Judge/Executive
Honorable Beverly Calvert, Allen County Clerk
Honorable Elvis Russell, Former Allen County Clerk
Members of the Allen County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

We have audited the accompanying statement of receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the former County Clerk of Allen County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 1998. This financial statement is the responsibility of the former County Clerk. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on this financial statement based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Guide for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, the former County Clerk was required to prepare the financial statement on a prescribed basis of accounting that demonstrates compliance with the cash basis and laws of Kentucky, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles. This cash basis system does not require the maintenance of a general fixed asset group or general long-term debt group of accounts. Accordingly, the accompanying financial statement is not intended to present financial position and results of operations in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and excess fees of the former County Clerk for the year ended December 31, 1998, in conformity with the basis of accounting described above.

To the People of Kentucky
Honorable Paul E. Patton, Governor
John P. McCarty, Secretary
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In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report dated April 29, 1999, on our consideration of the former County Clerk's compliance with certain laws and regulations and internal control over financial reporting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Hatchett", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
April 29, 1999

ALLEN COUNTY
 ELVIS RUSSELL, FORMER COUNTY CLERK
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES

Calendar Year 1998

Receipts

State Fees For Services \$ 7,014

Fiscal Court 5,503

Licenses and Taxes:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers \$ 329,756

Usage Tax 1,391,262

Tangible Personal Property Tax 800,049

License Applications 4,090

Lien Fees 4,020

Licenses-

Marriage 5,520

Deed Transfer Tax 35,529

Delinquent Tax 53,641 2,623,867

Fees Collected for Services:

Recordings-

Deeds, Easements and Contracts \$ 22,929

Real Estate Mortgages 30,380

Chattel Mortgages and Financing Statements 58,223

Estates 873 112,405

Other:

Miscellaneous 6,193

Interest Earned 4,322

Gross Receipts \$ 2,759,304

Disbursements

Payments to State:

Motor Vehicle-

Licenses and Transfers \$ 242,208

Usage Tax 1,347,513

Tangible Personal Property Tax 279,327

Licenses-

Delinquent Tax 6,428

Legal Process Tax 18,909

Candidate Filing Fees 900 \$ 1,895,285

ALLEN COUNTY
 ELVIS RUSSELL, FORMER COUNTY CLERK
 STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS, DISBURSEMENTS, AND EXCESS FEES
 Calendar Year 1998
 (Continued)

Disbursements (Continued)

Payments to Fiscal Court:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	\$	69,558	
Delinquent Tax		4,139	
Deed Transfer Tax		<u>33,752</u>	\$ 107,449

Payments to Other Districts:

Tangible Personal Property Tax	\$	418,991	
Delinquent Tax		<u>26,334</u>	445,325

Payments to Sheriff 3,930

Payments to County Attorney 8,821

Operating Disbursements:

Personnel Services-

Deputies Salaries	\$	91,106	
Part-Time Salaries		8,224	

Other Charges-

Bad Check Expense		139	
Bonds and Insurance		521	
Conventions and Travel		2,223	
Dues		400	
Miscellaneous		145	
Postage		380	
Refunds		2,251	
Tax Bill Preparation		<u>1,841</u>	<u>107,230</u>

Total Disbursements \$ 2,568,040

Net Receipts \$ 191,264

Less: Statutory Maximum 48,726

Excess Fees \$ 142,538

Less: Expense Allowance 3,600

Excess Fees Due County for Calendar Year 1998 \$ 138,938

Payments to County Treasurer- March 9, 1999 138,938

Balance Due at Completion of Audit \$ 0

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statement.

ALLEN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT

December 31, 1998

Note 1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Fund Accounting

A fee official uses a fund to report on the results of operations. A fund is a separate accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts. Fund accounting is designed to demonstrate legal compliance and to aid financial management by segregating transactions related to certain government functions or activities.

A fee official uses a fund for fees to account for activities for which the government desires periodic determination of the excess of receipts over disbursements to facilitate management control, accountability, and compliance with laws.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statement has been prepared on a cash basis of accounting pursuant to KRS 68.210 as recommended by the State Local Finance Officer. Revenues and related assets are generally recognized when received rather than when earned. Certain expenses are recognized when paid rather than when a liability is incurred, including capital asset purchases. Certain other expenses are recognized when a revenue and the related asset can be associated with a corresponding liability due another governmental entity.

The measurement focus of a fee official is upon excess fees. Remittance of excess fees is due to the County Treasurer in the subsequent year.

C. Cash and Investments

At the direction of the fiscal court, KRS 66.480 authorizes the County Clerk's office to invest in the following, including but not limited to, obligations of the United States and of its agencies and instrumentalities, obligations and contracts for future delivery or purchase of obligations backed by the full faith and credit of the United States, obligations of any corporation of the United States government, bonds or certificates of indebtedness of this state, and certificates of deposit issued by or other interest-bearing accounts of any bank or savings and loan institution which are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) or which are collateralized, to the extent uninsured, by any obligation permitted by KRS 41.240(4).

Note 2. Employee Retirement System

The county officials and employees have elected to participate in the County Employees Retirement System (CERS), pursuant to KRS 78.530 administered by the Board of Trustees of the Kentucky Retirement Systems. This is a multiple-employer public retirement system that covers all eligible full-time employees. Benefit contributions and provisions are established by statute. Nonhazardous covered employees are required to contribute 5.0 percent of their salary to the plan. The county's contribution rate for nonhazardous employees was 8.65 percent.

ALLEN COUNTY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENT
December 31, 1998
(Continued)

Note 2. Employee Retirement System (Continued)

Benefits fully vest on reaching five years of service for nonhazardous employees. Aspects of benefits for nonhazardous employees include retirement after 27 years of service or age 65.

Historical trend information pertaining to CERS' progress in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is present in the Kentucky Retirement Systems' annual financial report which is a matter of public record.

Note 3. Deposits

The former County Clerk maintained deposits with depository institutions insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). According to law, the depository institution should pledge sufficient securities as collateral which, together with FDIC insurance, equals or exceeds the amount on deposit at all times. In order to be valid against the FDIC in the event of failure or insolvency of the depository institution, this pledge of securities should be evidenced by an agreement that is (a) in writing, (b) approved by the board of directors of the depository institution or its loan committee, which approval must be reflected in the minutes of the board or committee, and (c) an official record of the depository institution. This agreement, signed by both parties, must be sufficient to create an enforceable and perfected security interest in the collateral under Kentucky law. The former County Clerk met the requirements stated above, and as of April 7, 1998, deposits were fully insured or collateralized at a 100% level with securities held by the county official's agent in the county official's name.

Note 4. Grant

The former County Clerk received a local records microfilming grant from the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives in the amount of \$14,246 during Calendar Year 1997 and earned interest of \$222. As of December 31, 1997, the unexpended grant balance was \$14,468. During Calendar Year 1998, funds earned interest of \$453 and no funds were expended. The unexpended grant balance is \$14,291 as of December 31, 1998. This unexpended grant balance should be transferred to the Allen County Clerk, Beverly Calvert.

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE
AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL
REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT
PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS



Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Honorable Johnny Hobdy, County Judge/Executive
Honorable Beverly Calvert, Allen County Clerk
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Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

We have audited the former Allen County Clerk as of December 31, 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated April 29, 1999. We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the former Allen County Clerk's financial statement as of December 31, 1998, is free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws and regulations, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the former Allen County Clerk's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statement and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statement being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

Honorable Johnny Hobdy, County Judge/Executive
Honorable Beverly Calvert, Allen County Clerk
Honorable Elvis Russell, Former Allen County Clerk
Members of the Allen County Fiscal Court
Report On Compliance And On Internal Control
Over Financial Reporting Based On An Audit Of The Financial
Statement Performed In Accordance With Government Auditing Standards
(Continued)

This report is intended for the information of management. However, this report, upon release by the Auditor of Public Accounts, is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Edward B. Hatchett, Jr.
Auditor of Public Accounts

Audit fieldwork completed -
April 29, 1999

